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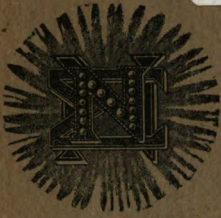
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July, 1897

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The
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THE
INTERCOLLEGIATE MEDICAL JOURNAL.

JULY, 1897.

MEDICAL SCIENCE STUDY.

ORIGINAL.

AN ADDRESS ON STATE SUPERVISION OF DEGREE-CONFERRING INSTITUTIONS.

HENRY WADE ROGERS.

Mr. President and Members of the Association :

Mr. Freeman, the English historian and Oxford professor, publishing his impressions of the United States, declared that one of the first things that impressed the stranger was the amazing number of universities and colleges existing here. After stating "We can hardly be wrong in inferring that the degrees granted by some of these institutions cannot be worth very much," he goes on to say, "now my feelings make me most loath to say a word in any federal country against the powers of the several states, but it is surely not unreasonable to hint that the right of granting degrees should be assumed only by authority of the federal power. For a degree is surely a national thing, or rather, it is something more than a national thing. It ought to be—I do not say whether it anywhere is—something like knighthood in old times, a badge of scholarship which should enable a man to take his place among scholars in any land to which he may come." Mr. Freeman seems to have been led to make these observations by the fact, to which he directs attention, that in the one state of Ohio there were thirty-two institutions with authority to grant degrees. It is easy to imagine that his feelings on this subject would have been not a little intensified, and his convictions very considerably strengthened, had he known that in the single state of Pennsylvania,

which has not generally been regarded as sinning, in these matters, one hundred and twenty institutions have authority to confer degrees. How many institutions there are in the country as a whole, which have like authority, I have not ascertained. The number is certainly large enough to afford good and sufficient reasons for reflections of a serious character.

In the first place, we must concede that there is no disposition on the part of the American people to transfer the national government or any part of the powers now vested in the state governments. In the second place, there appears to be no adequate reason for supposing that if the federal government were possessed of the power advocated by Mr. Freeman, the educational standards of the country would be any higher than they are under existing conditions. It cannot even be said with any degree of certainty that there would be a uniform law, under which institutions of learning would be incorporated, unless the constitution should be so amended as expressly to require it. Whatever reform is to be accomplished will have to be wrought out by the individual action of the states.

The difficulty under which we labor in this country is not due to the fact that the states, rather than the United States, are in control of the subject of education. In Germany, control over the universities is not in the empire, but, as in this country, is in the several states. The only difference is that in Germany the states exercise their rights of supervision, while in the United States, as a rule, they do not.

In this country it is usual to provide in the state constitutions that the legislatures shall pass no special act conferring corporate powers, but shall provide by general laws for the organization of corporations. The practice is, therefore, to enact a general law which commonly provides that any three or five persons may be incorporated as a college or university, on filing in the proper office, a certificate stating the name, object, number of trustees, and place of location of the institution, and that it shall have power to grant such literary honors and degrees as are usually conferred by such institutions. In some states the degree power is granted without any restrictions, while in a few instances, as in Michigan and Minnesota, it is given, provided "the course of study to be pursued in such institution is in all respects as thorough and comprehensive as is usu-

ally pursued in similar institutions of the United States." This last provision is very well in theory, but in practice does not always afford that protection against abuses which it was intended to secure.

Under laws like these, institutions are incorporated as colleges and universities that are without endowment, and in not a few instances are permitted to confer degrees, although the conditions prescribed for graduation are not higher than those prescribed for admission by institutions of high rank. Institutions whose total endowment is not equal to the necessities of an academy of the first rank, presume to confer the doctorate of philosophy on non-resident students, and have more candidates enrolled for that degree than they have college students in actual attendance. The degree of doctor of civil law is being dishonored in a manner that deserves the utmost censure. A law school announcing that it has for its object "the promotion of a higher standard of legal education," belies its pretensions by its prostitution of that high degree. These are the conditions which it prescribes:

1. The candidate, if he possesses "a good common school education," is admitted to the school, and at the end of two years obtains his degree of LL.B. (although law schools of the first class now require three years for that degree).

2. Having received the degree of LL.B. he spends one year longer in the school and obtains the degree of LL.M.

3. Having received the degree of LL.M. he continues for a fourth year and then obtains the degree of doctor of civil law, although he has no knowledge of a single foreign language, is unfamiliar with English literature, with the natural sciences or the higher mathematics. Taking into the account the amount of time spent in previous preparation, the degree can be obtained in less time than is required for the degree of bachelor of arts. And yet, on the advisory board of this school, may be found the names of a senator of the United States, several of the judges of the supreme court of the state, a bishop of the church, and the president of an academy of sciences. One cannot help wondering how men of their prominence can lend themselves to such an enterprise. They are not quite consenting to the sale of the degree, but they are certainly consenting, whether they are aware of it or not, to its woeful prostitution.

The causes of professional and of academic education both suffer from the want of adequate state supervision. Professional schools have been established, generally in the large cities, which are governed by purely commercial standards. We have in this country schools of law, medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy, that appear to be organized and conducted for the purpose of making money. They are stock corporations, the stock being generally held by members of the teaching force, the teachers being chosen, not for their fitness for any particular chair, but because of their willingness and ability to put up the money that is needed. The shorter the course of study, the cheaper the class of teachers; the less expended for books and apparatus, and the easier it is made to be admitted and graduated, the greater the number of students becomes and the larger the amount of dividends paid. Men who make merchandise of professional education have low professional and scholastic ideas. They are inclined to receive all students who apply for admission, without regard to their previous preparation or their moral character. They allow the students thus admitted to continue in their school without being concerned greatly as to the manner in which they apply themselves to study. They graduate them after an attendance for the allotted period, without scrutinizing too closely the extent of their ignorance, and confer upon them a degree which in theory is supposed to stand for high attainments. This sort of thing, impossible in Europe, should be made impossible in America. Such a condition of affairs is demoralizing beyond question. The tendency of it is all in the direction of low standards. It destroys the value of degrees. It imposes on the public a class of educational charlatans, and works injury to the students whom it falsely pretends to educate. It multiplies the difficulties in the way of those institutions that are endeavoring to do their work according to the highest standards. A faculty of law, or medicine, or dentistry, or pharmacy, that is conducting a school on any such basis as that described, ought not to have authority to confer degrees. There should be no hesitancy in declaring that the interests of education, and therefore the interests of the public, require that when the state does not exercise a power of supervision and does not establish a minimum standard of admission and graduation, it should withhold from every stock company the power of conferring degrees.

I do not desire to be understood as intimating an opinion that no school can be worthy of public confidence, which is conducted by a stock corporation paying dividends to its members, but only that the danger from schools of this class is so great that it is not wise, in the absence of state supervision, to entrust them with the degree-conferring power. While here and there a dividend-paying school may exist with high standards and be worthy of confidence, the influence of the great majority of schools conducted for the purposes of revenue is so bad, from an educational point of view, that the state would be justified in withholding from them all degree-conferring power.

The state of New York has recognized the evil which is connected with this class of institutions, and the ordinance of the university contains the following provision:

"No educational institution or association incorporated or conducted as a business enterprise, so that any part of its assets or income may be divided among stockholders or members, shall have university membership, or share in any grant of public money, or publish itself as holding its charter from, or having any connection with the university, except in words, for the use of which it has written permission from the regents. If subject to university supervision it shall use the words 'chartered as a stock (or business) corporation,' or some other descriptive word or phrase accepted by the regents as sufficiently indicating its proprietary character wherever the fact of its incorporation is printed.

"This group shall include all corporations holding limited charters for the university, and also every association or institution under university supervision not so organized, that all its assets and receipts from tuition or other sources, must be used solely for the benefit of the public, and without profit to stockholders, officers or teachers, beyond reasonable compensation for services actually rendered."

State supervision, justifying state recognition of diplomas, must be a supervision that extends impartially over all the degree-conferring institutions of the state, and which is exercised by prescribing standards and by seeing that those standards are honestly conformed to. Special privileges, based on a supervision that extends to less than the whole, no state should think of granting.

In some states the diploma of a professional school is accorded recognition by allowing the one to whom it has been granted to practice law, medicine, dentistry, or pharmacy, as the case may be, without requiring any examination as to professional knowledge. This is a mistake, and in itself, tends to lower educational standards. A school which knows that its graduates will have to take the examination by the state, will be ambitious, if the examination by the state is at all what it ought to be, that those whom it has trained and graduated should not only pass the state's examination, but that they should rank as high as those who have been graduated from the schools. The state's examination furnishes a constant pressure upon these schools in the direction of thorough work and higher standards. But irrespective of the effect upon the schools, it certainly is quite indefensible that a state which exercises no supervision over the schools, which does not prescribe a minimum of requirements for admission and graduation, and which does not ascertain for itself upon inspection, the thoroughness of the work done, should accord to the graduates exemption from the examinations required of persons proposing to practice law, medicine, dentistry, or pharmacy. The state, in the absence of its own supervision, is without any adequate guarantee that the work of the schools is so thoroughly done as to entitle any and every person holding a degree to be at once allowed to enter upon professional practice. This want of any sufficient guarantee is especially true when stock companies are allowed, without supervision, to confer, and I had almost said, to sell, their degrees. But there is no good reason why diplomas may not be accepted in lieu of examinations in states which really exercise supervision over the degree-conferring institutions. It would, however, be most unjust and unworthy to accord to the diplomas issued by a state university any special privileges simply because it is an institution under state control, and any attempt of that kind might very properly arouse resentment to the prejudice of the institution concerned. There might be, in the same state, institutions under private control, doing as good, if not better work. To attach to the diplomas of the state university, because of its state character, any special privileges, would manifestly be unfair, and the thought of it is not to be entertained.

The *laissez faire* policy which is responsible for the existing

abuses which characterize our educational affairs is not in favor in the state of New York. That state has set an example which deserves to be followed by other American states. Its legislation on this subject has been wisely framed. The legislature of that state, at its first session after the close of the revolutionary war, created the University of New York, and placed the same in the control of a board of Regents, composed of men of the highest character and distinction. The University of New York is not a teaching body. It includes and has supervision over all the colleges and academies of the state, although each has its own board of trustees for the management of its individual affairs. The regents of the University of New York are elected by the legislature of the state, and no person can be at the same time a regent of the university and a trustee or officer of any one of the colleges or academies of the state. The laws of New York confer upon the regents authority to incorporate universities, colleges, academies, and other educational institutions, with such powers and subject to such limitations and restrictions "as the regents may prescribe in conformity to law." They are also given the right, for sufficient cause, to suspend or revoke the charter of any educational institution. Under a law passed in 1892 it is provided that—

"No institution shall be given power to confer degrees in this state unless it shall have resources of at least \$500,000; and no institution for higher education shall be incorporated without suitable provision, approved by the regents, for buildings, furniture, educational equipment, and proper maintenance."

Under the ordinances of the university it has, however, been provided that "if the regents are satisfied that public interests will be promoted by such incorporation, that suitable provision has been made for buildings, furniture, educational equipment, and proper maintenance, and that the institution has resources of at least \$100,000 if it is a college, \$50,000 if an academy," then a charter may be issued to it. But institutions incorporated under this provision are not given degree-conferring powers.

The state of Pennsylvania has recently followed the example of her sister state. In 1895 the legislature of that commonwealth passed an act creating a college and university council and conferred upon it full authority to decide upon the advisa-

bility of chartering new institutions. No institution can now be chartered in that state with power to confer degrees unless its assets amount to \$500,000 for the exclusive purpose of promoting instruction, and unless the faculty consists of at least six regular professors, who devote all their time to the instruction of its college or university classes. The council has adopted uniform entrance requirements, which are obligatory as a minimum on all the collegiate institutions of the state. And no baccalaureate degree in arts, science, philosophy, or literature can now be conferred by any institution in the state on any student who has not completed a college or university course covering four years.

In America we are too easy-going about many things and we have much to learn from a study of European methods and the legislation of foreign states. American degrees are discredited in Europe because of the want of supervision of the degree-conferring power.

The constitutional provisions against special laws and making it necessary to incorporate under general statutes does not prevent the state from establishing all needed restrictions for the safe guarding of degrees.

There should be established in each state a Council of Education which shall be entrusted with powers similar to those vested in the regents of the University of New York, and it should be composed of the most eminent men in the state without any reference to political considerations. No degree-conferring institution should be incorporated without the approval of the Council of Education, which should be indorsed upon or filed with the certificate of incorporation. That council should have the right to fix the minimum standard of requirements for admission and graduation, and the conditions under which degrees may be conferred, and the degree-conferring power should be withheld from all institutions not complying with the regulations established. Such legislation should be made applicable to all institutions thereafter incorporating, as well as to those already incorporated when the state has reserved the power to modify the powers conferred. It could not be made to apply to institutions already incorporated in cases when the state has not reserved power to do so.

There appears to be no good reason for doubting the con-

stitutionality of the proposed legislation. No constitutional provision is violated by creating a council or commission and giving it the power to decide the questions which otherwise would be left to each institution to decide for itself. The principle that legislative power cannot be delegated is not involved. On determining the questions submitted to it, the council is no more engaged in acts of legislation than would be the institutions themselves or the individual incorporators.

"Cannot the legislature," asks the New York Court of Appeals, "confer upon a commission the power, upon the application of individuals, to make the same determination for the individuals which they could make for themselves?" That court answered the question in the affirmative, and so I believe would the courts of the country generally.

May we not hope that in the several states legislation may be obtained which shall protect the universities of the country from the evils which exist from the failure to exercise a supervision deemed essential by European states? We Americans need to rid ourselves of the notion that a "go-as-you-please" policy is good enough for us. The time has come when institutions doing only preparatory work should not be permitted to confer university degrees, and when professional schools, established as money-making manufactories, should be deprived of the right to sell degrees.

NOTES ON THE STUDY OF DERMATOLOGY AND
SYPHILOGRAPHY ABROAD.

JOSEPH ZEISLER.

Is it necessary to go abroad to study skin and allied diseases, in view of the fact that our teaching and clinical facilities have improved within the last ten years so vastly as to make us feel justly proud of our standing? No doubt an improvement can be noticed in all departments, and even the development of dermatology in this country has been very remarkable, and yet whoever wants to become proficient and expert in the above-named subjects will find it imperative to complete his training in those famous centers of dermatological study which alone are capable of furnishing the enormous material necessary for that end. Some chauvinistic enthusiasts may be inclined to think that our post-graduate schools will be amply sufficient for this purpose, but let us be sincere. Are all the places in these schools filled by competent men? Don't we find only too often a man at the head of a department, who at best might make a fair assistant, but is very far from being an authority to which the practitioner can look up with that degree of respect and reliance which is so absolutely necessary under the circumstances? Is the scant ambulatory material at hand in our regular and post-graduate schools sufficient to guarantee the future practitioner, and more so the future specialist, that indispensable versatility which he shall need in his daily work? Where are our hospital facilities? Barring perhaps New York City, can there be found anywhere a hospital which has set aside a single ward for the study of skin and venereal diseases? Take our city here in Chicago, which of late has been justly looked to as the great medical center in the West; with all its hospitals, with all its vaunted clinical facilities, where is there a place to study a case of pemphigus, or of any other of the many important skin diseases which can be treated and observed only under the roof of a hospital? Where are our dermatological laboratories? Where are our wax model museums which might take the place of the living material? If an answer to the question, placed at

the beginning of this article, is given in an objective and fair way, it must be that only thorough training abroad can give to an applicant for dermatological honors the finish, without which he never can stand in line with the best men in other departments.

Taking this for granted, the course to pursue will be very different, whether dermatology should be only one of the many subjects to be studied abroad, or whether it should be the chief pursuit there. In the first case, one or several courses in any of the large European universities will be found to be perfectly sufficient. In the latter case, a more systematic training in several of these places, and in a certain order, will be more advisable.

It is necessary to know that the smaller universities in Germany and other countries, as, for instance, Heidelberg, Freiburg, Tübingen Göttingen, Halle, Jena, and so on, which for some branches of medicine offer very fair inducements, are in no way to be relied upon for the special study of dermatology. In most of the places named the teaching is done in a very similar way as here. They depend upon dispensary and polyclinical material, and the teaching is often done by men who are not full professors in those departments. For practical purposes the places to be considered are London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, Breslau, Prague, and perhaps a few more.

Hamburg, which has no fully equipped university, is frequently visited by American students on account of its excellent surgical appointments, and on account of the high appreciation in which that most indefatigable worker, Unna, is held everywhere. But let it be understood that Unna declines most emphatically to receive students for a period of less than a year. The idea to take a course or two there of a few weeks each under his guidance should be at once discarded. The material at Unna's command, at least as far as his private hospital is concerned, is far from being overwhelming. The chief attraction of his arrangements lies in the close attention given to histological and pathological studies. Whoever has glanced at that monumental work of Unna's, the "Histo-Pathology of the Skin," which emanated from his laboratory, will understand that in Hamburg is to be found at least one of the headquarters for the scientific study of modern dermatology. Whoever sets out to

spend from two to three years in Europe for the exclusive study of dermatology will do well to start in Hamburg.

Breslau, in Silesia, is justly proud of possessing the finest outfit for dermatological work to be found anywhere. It has an enormous building devoted to hospital and laboratory purposes in the interests of dermatology exclusively. At the head of it is Professor A. Neisser, famous for his discovery of the gonococcus, for his researches of leprosy and many other subjects, and he has under him a most excellent corps of assistants. The material there is ample. Microscopical work is carried on on a large scale. Photography, particularly the reproduction of stereopticon pictures, has been fully developed there, and a stay of from three to six months in Breslau will be amply repaid.

Going southwest, the student will do well to look into that old historical city of Prague. The Slavic University there will hardly be interesting on account of the language; but the German University will offer him in the person of Professor Pick a man of wonderful experience, of scientific spirit, in spite of his age a thoroughly modern man, and extensive hospital facilities.

In Berlin the material will be found sadly split up. The best men there, like Lassar, Max Joseph, O. Rosenthal, Blaschko, have all their own private polyclinics where good work is done; but the lack of concentration will be found to constitute a considerable bar to successful studies.

It is very different in Vienna, which, since Hebra's time has justly been considered the great dermatological center, and which for clinical purposes, at least, has surely maintained its place up to date. That old and historical building, the general hospital, contains within its walls something like eighteen wards which are constantly filled by the greatest variety of cutaneous and syphilitic cases that could be imagined. Three eminent men stand at the head of three distinct services—Kaposi, Neumann, and Lang. Is it necessary to say anything about these men? There are some who, in a rather invidious way, might call Kaposi old-foggyish, because he has held back somewhat long before considering lupus a form of tuberculosis; because he fails to see in impetigo herpetiformis (Duhring) an independent disease; because he does not adopt every new-fangled remedy as a panacea. But, if a student is looking for a reliable authority in all clinical questions, there is the man. His experi-

ence, not only in everyday diseases, but in such rare troubles as pemphigus, lichen ruber, Xeroderma pigmentosum, Pityriasis rubra, is simply stupendous. His delivery is almost fascinating. His modes of treatment are practical, reliable, and sound. While Kaposi's material is very largely of a dermatological nature, Neumann and Lang have chiefly cases of syphilis and venereal diseases, and only a small proportion of cutaneous disorders. One must have gone through the wards of either of those departments to have an idea of the vast array and wonderful variety of cases of syphilis in all its stages. Besides the general hospital, the polyclinic has some excellent ambulatories for skin diseases, one of which is managed by Hans von Hebra. As the polyclinic is close by the general hospital, courses can be taken there without much loss of time, while the other large hospitals of Vienna, although each containing an independent dermatological service, are too far away from the Latin quarter to be easily available.

Within the last ten years Paris has done much to wrench from Vienna the reputation of being the foremost place of dermatological learning, and the majority of dermatologists at this day would probably easily grant it first place,—not without good reason,—for that famous hospital, St. Louis, is indeed a most marvelous place for the student in skin diseases. Nowhere in the world can there be found such an intense concentration of the vast material of a metropolis—yea, of a country almost; nowhere will men, working in the same line of medicine, be found to harmonize better, free from jealousy and individual strife. The material is arranged so cleverly that on certain days one can see a small army of lupus patients in review, while on another the various forms of alopecia will be presented in equal numbers. The advantage of seeing so many cases of the same kind in all their variations will be apparent at once. The conferences held every morning between the different men are a fruitful source in clearing up differences of opinion. The personnel in charge of the various departments is very remarkable in itself,—Besnier, Hallopau, Fournier, Brocq, and a host of others. Not the least attraction in the St. Louis Hospital is the celebrated Barretta collection of wax models, which contains hundreds of life-like reproductions of rare diseases of the skin. The changeability of the symptoms in cutaneous troubles makes such a collection,

particularly as regards rare and disputed cases, of immeasurable value. An hour spent in that museum will confound the spectator almost on account of its bewildering variety, but the careful scrutiny for days and weeks will furnish a treasury of clinical experience.

The possibilities of London as a dermatological center could be fully appreciated last year, at the occasion of the Third International Congress of Dermatology. The clinical demonstrations at that time were a thing never to be forgotten. Men from all parts of the globe, who had gathered there, looked in amazement at the array of rare cases presented at one time and in one place. Of course, the London men had worked for months ahead to make such a showing possible; but this collection of living material was a rare accomplishment. The student who selects London for his post-graduate study will quickly find out that the scattering of the hospitals all over the city makes clinical study very difficult, and he will miss a center like the St. Louis Hospital in Paris. To spend a few weeks or a month there in order to come in contact with such excellent men as Crocker, Hutchinson, Morris, Pringle, and the rest, will surely prove profitable for the advanced student. To select it as the chief place of study I should consider a mistake.

To recapitulate, I should suggest that the student who goes to Europe to fit himself for general practice should take one or several courses in skin and venereal diseases in Vienna, Berlin, Paris, or London. The student who proposes to devote his life to dermatology should spend no less than two, if possible three, years there; begin by a year's work under Unna in Hamburg, give three months each to Breslau, Berlin, and Vienna, and about six months to Paris and a month to London. During this time he will find occasion to make short excursions to such other places of learning as Prague, Bonn, Lille, in France, and also to Norway, where leprosy can be studied better perhaps than anywhere else.

TOXIC CORRELATION.*

H. BAIRD FAVILL.

In regard to this somewhat startling title, I wish to explain that my idea is to suggest the fact, that there exist in our clinical experience many conditions, and combinations of conditions, whose origin and sequence bear to each other very close relation, and that not in haphazard ways, but in ways most methodical.

We are now in the era of observation of toxic phenomena, and see with a distinctness heretofore impossible much of the truth which unlocks obscure situations.

It is noteworthy that the legitimate fruit of the most advanced research is a well-demonstrated humoral pathology, the limits of which one dare not at this time suggest.

After all the satisfactory light shed by cellular pathology, the query was bound to come, Why has a cell a pathology?

The answer has come provisionally and is furnished by chemists and biologists as follows: The perverted cell has three main sources of its degeneracy: (A) Its nutritive supply corresponding to environment. (B) Its innervation, constituting its functional experience, and (C) Its trophic control; all evolved under the potential of its heredity.

Therefore, when we regard morbid states as the aggregate reaction of the molecular body, subject to those influences, need we be surprised that the simple pathologic conditions take multiple forms, or that various unlike manifestations may trace a common origin?

I wish to confine my comments to conditions which are explained by toxic materials in the circulatory blood, and to define toxic in such terms as to imply material which is noxious, either in kind or in relative amount.

It is not possible, even if time permitted, to define the nature of the toxic substances to which one so frequently refers. However, every rational analysis, every analogy, lends color to the assumption that the blood is the means of distribution, in ad-

*Paper before the Alumni Association of Rush Medical College, Commencement Exercises, 1897.

dition to its normal constituents of extraneous or accumulated agents which are, broadly speaking, toxic.

Most obvious of these circulatory distributions are the systemic poisonings occurring in the course of septic disease. It is at this day superfluous to argue the toxic quality of blood so impregnated. The destructive effect upon tissue is too familiar for comment. And yet these are but the acute and exaggerated prototypes after which follow innumerable less pronounced intoxications whose clinical manifestations have until recently borne the name of individual diseases.

There must be dissected and rearranged all of the complex subjects included under various asthmas and rheumatisms, bronchitides and headaches, dyspepsias and diarrhœas. Each with its many sides, and all susceptible of more or less correlation.

As a text for my remarks I wish to state simply the facts in a case selected from many of similar import, because of its greater variety of morbid phenomena.

A young woman, thirty years of age, whose health had never been excellent, had had since childhood a cough, in character loose, accompanied by, at times, profuse expectoration. At twenty-five years, she fell into so-called nervous prostration, and in the course of it developed what has been called asthma, which was for a time, and has been at periods since, very obstinate.

In addition to this and in behavior quite different, she has periods of great dyspnœa, accompanied by cold extremities, great prostration, and always associated with gas in the stomach or bowels.

About the period of development of the asthma, she began to have what was regarded as rheumatism of knees and various joints, which was wont to recur with much irregularity.

During all the period, and in fact in a minor degree, always she has been prone to looseness of the bowels, latterly amounting at times to diarrhœa, of weeks' duration.

During the course of the various phases, she is liable to become much reduced, and to be under the general suspicion of having consumption.

It is impossible to convey an adequate idea of the elusive and surprising character of this case. It is, however, typical of conditions which we encounter often less pronounced. As to

its behavior, a word. The two features, asthma and rheumatism, are very sure to recur in given circumstances; often recur together. As a rule their exacerbation is preceded by a disturbance of the digestive tract, indicated by bloating and discomfort. If these conditions continue, diarrhœa is likely to occur, and as it continues, the distress of breathing, and in the joints, often is mitigated.

Frequently, however, these two conditions seem to be as it were reciprocal, and when the rheumatism is relieved medically, the asthma promptly sets in. The special dyspnœa above referred to appears quite accidental, is associated with gas in the stomach and the general accompaniments of vasomotor spasm. In fact it is an angio-spasm of reflex origin, and usually transient. As I have indicated, the periods of diarrhœa and profuse bronchial secretion are liable to afford comparative immunity from the more painful features.

Physical examination of this patient is essentially negative. Besides a moderate anæmia and considerable shortage of urea, the clinical investigations yield no result.

The family history is interesting, and it was great familiarity with family traits which led me to finally associate the case as I do.

The mother is of apparently fine physique, but really of delicate constitution, with marked vascular weakness, as shown by extreme varicose veins. On the whole, of neurotic type, well controlled.

The father is, generally speaking, gouty, though his organic lesion up to this date is confined to mild degree of interstitial nephritis and a marked tendency to intestinal indigestion.

Several aunts are markedly gouty, one having distinct interstitial nephritis; one affections of the nervous system simulating organic bulbar change; another has clearly a heart participating in arterio-sclerosis; all of them being ill, or comparatively well, according to the rigidity with which they adhere to the regime necessary to obviate their auto-intoxications.

All of these facts bear in my opinion more or less directly upon the proposition which I make in the premises. I consider that the various forms of disturbance shown by this patient are due to a common cause, and that cause a toxic agent developed in the course of digestion.

Digestion in this sense is very broad, and must cover not only the processes of gastric and intestinal digestion, but the secondary chemical changes which take place from the time of absorption by the intestinal mucosa, until discharged into the hepatic veins.

To maintain this proposition does not involve the assumption or demonstration of facts.

It does, however, involve analysis and comparison of clinical experience, rather broadly interpreted, to be satisfied:

1st. That asthma or rheumatism of the type in question may be the result of the products of vitiated digestion.

2d. That these two morbid phenomena may be the result of the same poison.

3d. That the bronchitis and diarrhoea bear an essential relation to the digestive vice.

For a great while it has been customary to deal with asthma as a secondary phenomenon, and to regard it on the whole as symptomatic. Most of the contention upon the point has been to class it as a reflex nervous reaction; and the primary cause has been habitually sought in distant local irritation. Though not disputing the possibility of such an asthma, I am strongly of the opinion that the morbid influence is exerted very frequently through the blood stream, bringing to the susceptible organ its intoxicant, from which arises the distinctive spasmodic response. This, to be sure, might be reflex, but not at all in the sense in which that term is usually employed.

That this toxæmia is of digestive origin at times, is hard to demonstrate, but of great probability. In support of this I might instance records in my possession of true asthma in children associated with flatulence of intestines and evidence of hepatic-duodenal failure, disappearing with correction of the function of these organs. I regard such flatulence as not causative, but simply indicative of vices in digestion whose result is to load the blood with noxious material.

Or I might instance the alternating asthma and chronic diarrhoea, not seldom found, in which the cessation of diarrhoea is quite likely to be associated with hepatic stoppage, and prompt recurrence of dyspnœa, to be relieved by fully opening up elimination.

In such conditions I believe the checking of diarrhoea to be

not a cause of asthma, but a concomitant indication of some vice of the digestive process which permits intoxication, leading in turn to asthma.

Many combinations leading to the same conclusion might be presented if in keeping with the brevity of this discussion. The conclusion is almost inevitable that asthma has at times such origin.

Can one say as confidently that the arthritis to which we refer as rheumatism may be of similar origin?

Purposely ignoring the obvious relation of vicious intestinal conditions to acute rheumatism, because of the complicating question of possible infectiousness; and on the other side avoiding the relation of gout to toxæmia, as involving a wider genesis, let us consider the freaks of occasional or accidental rheumatism.

It is a not uncommon experience to find an individual whose liberty to use alcoholics is limited by the fact that their use is followed by distinct rheumatic pain. This, by no means invariably, but only when occasioning, or at least associated with, marked digestive upset. Usually such disability does not follow at once.

Thirty-six or forty-eight hours may intervene. Is such an occurrence the result of alcoholic contact, or is it the result of secondary toxins formed in the course of a digestive lapse first induced by the alcohol? I am inclined to believe the latter. Again, observation of chronic rheumatism of certain types leads one to the conclusion that the general course of the arthritis is quite parallel with the quality of the digestive function. That this may be complex in its explanation is likely, but it serves to associate the offended joint and the digestive processes.

Much might be cited to further this view, if time permitted.

Assuming the relation of the digestive process to the symptoms, are we justified in concluding that the agency is toxic rather than reflex? In support of the explanation by toxæmia, let me but mention frequent occurrence of asthmatic symptoms in the form of uræmic dyspnœa, gouty bronchitis, aggravated bronchial irritation from so-called "insufficient" kidneys; or again the repeated joint involvement in certain forms of nephritis, the painful affections of tendon and fascia incident to certain plethoric states, all of which are in their origin strictly

toxic. The fact that these are essentially from "retention" toxæmia, does not at all render it less probable that a direct intoxication may be operative.

As against the theory of reflex irritation lies the fact that these complications do not follow at once the digestive disturbance as indicated to exist by other signs, but after an interval of many hours, or days.

Emphasizing this, the case under discussion furnishes a typical instance of true reflex spasm. As noted above, under certain conditions of gastric irritation, she has distressing periods of dyspnœa, with general shock, following immediately and subsiding as the stomach condition is corrected, or being relieved by such an antispasmodic as nitro-glycerine.

Of the nervous reflex origin of this angio-spasm there can be little question, and its behavior is in marked contrast to the other types of spasm.

The second question, as to the identity of the poisons which produce these very different manifestations, I must be permitted to beg.

Knowing next to nothing of the physiological chemistry after absorption has commenced, and as little of the products of unsatisfactory primary digestion, it is useless to argue the point. Two statements may be made: 1st. That it is not difficult to believe that one toxine may on different tissues exert various influence; 2nd. That the constant association of clinical forms suggests a uniformity of cause, much easier to ascribe to one morbid process recurring, than to two recurring at the same time.

The third question is as to the relationship of the diarrhœa and bronchitis to the pathologic whole. I intentionally associate them, because it strikes me that their relation to the process is much the same. Considering the long duration of both, and the fact that other evidences of disturbed digestion have been, off and on, present for years, I am inclined to regard them as eliminative efforts.

Therapeutic effort to check these symptoms invariably results, when directed to the local condition, in aggravation of the distressing features of the case, the asthma or rheumatism. Whereas correction of these conditions by attention to primary

causes, as I hold them, that is by securing perfect digestion, affords relief to the entire group.

The diarrhœa, hence, in this light must be considered rather more than a carrying off of residual matter. It must be essentially an excretory act.

A question of vast interest arises at this juncture: At what point of the digestive sequence lies the fault which permits the noxious impregnation of the blood? In general two fields exist. The territory occupied by the digestion up to its complete solution of foods; the alimentary field.

The other occupied by the processes of fitting the absorbed food for circulation; the portal field.

The developments of untoward character, possible in the alimentary canal as a result of defective digestive process, are many.

Does not the recognition of these and their baneful influence involve the interrogation of the portal field?

Is not the portal field our natural protection when in a state of functional integrity? Whatever the alimentary attack, if effective, does it not imply that the natural barrier of the portal field is inadequate, either through failure or primary unfitness?

What should be included in the portal field in this connection?

The mucous membrane of the intestine; the portal vessels; and the liver cells employed in the elaborating process.

I do not wish to take time to more than impress the importance of the intestineal mucosa. It is not just a membrane. In transit through it, food is absolutely altered in its fundamental qualities.

It is *par excellence* the organ of secondary digestion. Its integrity is vital. What may be its reciprocal relations with the liver we do not know, but in this limited area will be found an explanation of much pathology.

By these steps of indirect and comparative reasoning I have reached the conclusion previously stated as to my patient, and have reached the suspicion at least that the fundamental pathology is in the intestineal mucosa. Very many cases less complicated bear the same analysis. If the reasoning is even approximately correct, it serves to attract attention to the futility of

approaching clinical work through nomenclature. Much as I value the gift of definition, I deplore the tendency to make it in any degree explanatory. It must be purely descriptive, or it becomes a cloud.

In the foregoing comments I have endeavored to show how the familiar pictures of disease appear to me; not as entities, but as phases in the activity of a common cause.

In this instance, as the reaction of various organs to a strictly toxic agent, and with widely differing morphological characteristics intimately correlated.

MARRIAGE IN ITS RELATION TO PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.*

FREDERICK WHARTON MANN.

Society seems to be realizing that its persistent interference with the free operation of natural selection has resulted in the survival of the unfit. Through the mitigating influence of science upon such diseases as tuberculosis and syphilis, the tubercular have not been eliminated by the selective agency of the microbe and the syphilitic have been saved from destruction by virtue of iodide of potash.

Society now contemplates with much superfluous apprehension the race vitiation which it conceives imminent in the inheritance of organic impairments from progenitors of this order. The object of life being to avoid suffering, how, it is asked, shall the effects of tuberculosis, syphilis, epilepsy and other objectionable legacies be overcome? The answer is by control of the marriage contract. Thus marriage becomes a factor in State or preventive medicine.

With an increase of governmental function has come a shallow and convulsive belief in the ability of the State to accomplish certain ends. Every one is busy laying down laws for his neighbor and not for himself. Our own industrious lawmakers have introduced three thousand bills into the legislature all designed to remediate our existing evil state. A passion for regulating consumes mankind and a tame submissiveness on the part of the regulated encourages it. The regeneration of society is to be accomplished by statutory enactment. The criminal and the insane must be deprived of propagative faculty. The marriage of the diseased must be prohibited. Society must be purged of its imperfections that it may proceed to its late but splendid efflorescence.

There is no lack of indication that the State contemplates some action leading to active control of the marriage contract. A bill is before the Texas legislature to prohibit the marriage of those affected with serious hereditary diseases or taints. Con-

*Read before the Michigan State Medical Society, at Grand Rapids. Reprint from *The Physician and Surgeon*.

necticut is said to have passed a bill prohibiting the marriage of epileptics. The New York State Board of Health requires a report of all cases of tuberculosis. What the board is going to do with this information is uncertain. It may be going to amuse itself by a series of fanciful inductions, uncertain generalizations based upon unreliable statistics, or this may be the preliminary step in assuming parental control of the tubercular.

The transmission of hereditary disease-tendencies is undesirable whether the tendency be to cancer or to nosebleed. The undesirability of either heritage is purely a question of degree. Those, however, who would forcibly restrain the transmission of cancer or syphilis would scarcely be prepared to do so with regard to gout, rheumatism, or epistaxis. There is no real inconsistency in this, there being no unfairer test of a theory than to push it to its logical extreme. The real question is: Can the State do more to accomplish this end than can be done by the educated individual conscience?

The prime justification of any State action in interdicting undesirable marriages must be based on a well-established doctrine of heredity. That certain diseases are hereditary is certain, but how and in what lines they are heritable, is uncertain. The Darwinian doctrine of pangenesis, which has done duty so long, is not unreservedly regarded as impregnable. Biologists are turning with favor to Weismann's doctrine of the continuous germ-plasm. If the germ-plasm be continuous the transmission of acquired variations cannot be predicted. A son resembles his father, not by direct inheritance, but by virtue of a common germ-plasm, because in fact both are plasmic brothers. If Weismann's conclusions be true, the unsexualizing of the criminal would not interrupt the continuity of the criminal plasma any more than the lopping off of a branch would arrest the growth of a tree. To be successful, the operation would have to be performed on his sisters and his uncles and his cousins and his aunts, and to do this the State would have to be more than fired with the ardor of a modern gynecologist.

Probably the inheritance most dreaded is syphilis. Syphilis is popularly supposed to be a disease destroying and disfiguring its victim, involving him in social ostracism and tainting future generations with the sins of the father. Of course we know that syphilis submitted to any kind of a rational treatment is

nothing of the kind. The transmission of syphilis is always a grave possibility, but the remote effects are inconsiderable in decently treated cases. How could the State prevent the marriage of the syphilitic? How could it gain knowledge of so clandestine a disease? How could it prevent married men acquiring syphilis? The physician finds little difficulty in restraining syphilitic patients from marrying during contagious periods. The reasonableness of such a proceeding is perceived by the most ignorant. Will the safety of the community be best conserved by consolidating this individual responsibility or by transferring the onus of restraint to such an irresponsible oligarchy as a state board of health?

It is desirable to restrain the transmission of the cancerous cachexia. Cancer is a disease occurring comparatively late in life. What can the State do for the woman with cancer of the uterus or breast, who is already the mother of eight children? What will the State do with the children? At least six, and probably the whole eight of them by ordinary probabilities will escape the disease of the mother. Will the State intervene in their marriage relations?

The grave mortality of tuberculosis and the widespread prevalence of this disease have always made the tubercular objects of State solicitude. A pronounced hereditary factor justifies positive notions regarding the communicability of the disease. The measures which the individual has adopted in regard to syphilis need extension to tuberculosis. The individual protects himself from the effects of his own ignorance when he realizes them. The significance of the hereditary factor in tuberculosis is rapidly becoming common knowledge. A conscientious tubercular will not marry any more than an unconscious one can be prevented from so doing by the State. Nothing can be more barbarous than the cruel tendency to make of these unfortunates a leper class or to label every one dangerous who may be found to have a few sporadic tubercular bacilli in his bronchial tubes. The isolation method finds its parallel in the leper islands of Hawaii, a striking illustration of the futility of State control.

The marriage of epileptics is a matter of grave importance, but again it is a question what amount of State intervention is warranted. Epilepsy is as much a condition as a state. It is an incident in evolution, a nervous instability indicative of

nature's excess of endeavor. Epilepsia gravior encroaches on the border line of insanity. An impairment of the will may render the victim of this graver form of the disease incapable of contracting. Those, however, who may be affected in a milder way may not make unworthy progenitors. The world owes much to its epileptics. Julius Cæsar, Petrarch, Moliere, Flaubert, Saint Paul, Socrates, Newton, Swift, Peter The Great, Mahomet, Richelieu and Napoleon are a few illustrious men who fortunately lived before Connecticut passed her epileptic law. Is there any man who would have thought it a grave disadvantage to have been the son of Socrates? Would any woman have felt the physical stigma of being the daughter of Saint Paul.

The marriage of the insane is of course to be prohibited, though not necessarily for pathological reasons. The insane often produce excellent children. The psychoses seem to impart brilliancy to the offspring. Marriage, however, is a contract necessitating mutual understanding of its nature to make it valid. The insane cannot marry because they are incapable of making contracts.

The avowed justification of any State intervention with marriage is that of securing in some remote period race-immunity from dangerous diseases. While we can sometimes aid nature, or anticipate her aims, there is a general conviction that our efforts to be successful must be in furtherance of her methods. Thus we ask, is not nature doing in a more certain way what the advocates of intervention desire? Is not nature giving us a race-immunity from prevalent diseases? The ravages which syphilis and cancer make when they gain a foothold among primitive peoples indicate that we possess a partial immunity to those diseases. Our experience of these diseases is mild as compared with that of primitive peoples. How has nature accomplished this? How has she, if history be true, made us entirely immune to certain diseases of antiquity? Nature has her own laboratories of mitigated virus and she works therein silently and effectively. She discovered antitoxins before we did. Could we by an artificial regulation of the mixed conditions of inheritance have imparted an immunity such as the African negroes show to malaria or the inhabitants of the south to yellow fever? How did the Japanese acquire immunity to measles? Not by artificial inbreeding.

Somehow, and in what way we do not yet know precisely, the organism either by phagocytosis or by the development of alexins and antitoxins, by some cell-antagonism, secures its immunity. It is from a knowledge of this process medicine is now deriving her newest inspiration. The organism in the future is, however, not only to enjoy its difficultly-attained natural immunity, but is to enjoy acquired immunity. The immunizing principle of vaccination for small-pox, which for long years lingered in the empiric, is no longer an isolated fact in preventive medicine. Other correlated facts are being discovered and by study of her methods nature is yielding us knowledge of her most beneficent secrets.

If we may infer the nature of immunity from our present knowledge of the process, it is not to be conferred by a careful system of inbreeding, which would produce men of kine-like excellence with bovine hearts and low-resistance power.

"Nature is made better by no mean,
But nature makes that mean; over that art
Which you say adds to nature, is an art,
That nature makes."

There are two possible agencies to which we can look to restrain the transmission of disease. One, through the increase of the power of the State over the individual. The other, by increasing the sense of individual responsibility. Unfortunately it appears impossible to strengthen one without weakening the other. It has been noticed in some European countries that where the State inspection of milk is especially rigid the milk is of notably low quality. Where the State undertakes the duty of inspection the consumers are saved the trouble of finding out if they are cheated. They become apathetic and indifferent. Instead of finding every consumer his own inspector the milk-producer discovers he has but one to reckon with, a state official who is usually incompetent and often corrupt. Our state legislatures have enacted hundreds of measures designed to prevent railroads killing their employees and passengers. Railroads, however, have been brought to their present state of safety and efficiency by entirely different means. By holding them responsible for those whom they maim and kill, and mulcting them in damages when liable. Every year our cities spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in restricting the spread of diphtheria. If,

as in the case of railroads, those whose criminal carelessness caused contagion were imprisoned or rendered civilly liable our expensive isolation methods would be much cheapened. All legislation is pernicious which tends to lessen this responsibility. Nothing should absolve a man of the obligation of beneficence, and whether he be sick or well, he, himself, should be bound to see that others do not injure themselves for his benefit.

Is the State which has shown itself incapable of securing pure milk or unadulterated food to be intrusted, when it invades the sanctity of private life, with the guardianship of personal morals? Mankind does not learn morality by being told what it shall not do. Probably the ten commandments are so universally disobeyed because most of them begin with "Thou shalt not." As a string of negative injunctions they lack positive direction. Moral ideas seldom override material considerations. Men have learned to be honest, not by being told, "Thou shalt not steal," but through experience of the unhappy results of misappropriation.

Much of this frantic and impracticable effort, "to mould things nearer the heart's desire," proceeds from a spirit of spurious benevolence which regards the community as of more value than the individual and the remote as of more import than the immediate. The thought devoted to making our neighbors eligible members of our community would yield better fruit were it directed to making ourselves better than they. The purpose of society is not to restrain ten men from becoming vicious but to evolve one supremely virtuous. Love your neighbor as yourself, if you can be so prodigal of your affection, but at least love yourself as well as your neighbor. Fortunately our neighbors never love us as they love themselves. Did they do so we should have to flee to the woods to avoid their sympathy and resist their importunities.

The State by interfering with the marriage relation encroaches upon the individual's natural rights. There are only two natural inalienable rights, with which a man born into the world, is endowed. One, the right to struggle for his existence and have it if he can get it. The other, the right to select his own mate and hold her if he can keep her. It was for this primal right to select his own mate and hold her if he can keep her. It was for this primal right that the elk grew its horns,

and the flowers have been tintured with the hues of Heaven. Certain instincts are inextinguishable. The mother glows with the love of womanhood as the babe predestined to scrofula or epilepsy crows in her face. Repress this sentiment and the inextinguishable instinct will assert itself with gracious spontaneity. Herman and Dorothea stand for eternal human types, to appear and reappear, as we attempt to "frustrate nature in her calm intent" by substituting a methodical barbarism for a gracious evolution.

Of higher value than any temporary good of the community is an indelible respect for individual life. To meddle with this is to tamper with the transcendental part of social well-being. In these days of political tinkering how true seem the words of Benjamin Franklin, "Those who give up essential liberty for the sake of temporary safety, deserve neither safety nor liberty."

PROGRESS.

EDITORIAL.

DOES THE CLINIC AS UTILIZED FOR INSTRUCTION PURPOSES TO-DAY PRESENT ANY DANGERS? Recent improvements in pedagogics are along the line of recognition of laws of psychophysiologic activity. The knowledge of the effects of stimuli on the one hand, and of subjectivity on the other, forms a scientific basis for instruction along all lines, which has been hitherto impossible; and education in art and in the sciences is to be eventually freed from the empiricism of the past.

A fundamental principle deduced from the findings is that the initial memory forms a basis for comparison which maintains, in greater or less degree, during the subsequent life of the individual.

This principle has direct application to pedagogics in the medical branch of science, and particularly to clinical teaching.

To unlearn is more difficult than to learn.

There is nothing to show us that the knowledge attained by an adult is relatively any greater than that of the child. The advanced education of the man is but the gradually added effect of greater experience and contact, and to attain its greatest perfection, must be achieved through a series of carefully graduated steps.

Herein has been the greatest drawback to the development of thinking men in medicine. The custom inaugurated by preceptors, who start men upon the highway of medicine by introducing them first to an amputation or a severe typhoid, is not improved upon in the daily experience of clinical teaching in modern medical schools.

Quite recently a student about to graduate from a high-grade school in this country—an instance which illustrates, perhaps, an extreme of this point—purchased with the usual armamentarium some twenty or thirty hæmostats. Being

asked why he bought so many, he replied he did not know but he might be called into the country and have to do an ovariectomy, and wanted to be prepared for any emergency. So frequently had he seen the major operations performed that the technic had become paramount, and the underlying philosophy of the disease was nothing in contrast.

Granting this man takes low rank in reasoning capacity with his fellows—was the fault wholly his? That which presented in him made its impress nevertheless in varying degrees in every shade of mentality having like instruction.

If it was the experience of men in earlier days that they feared their patients, and rushed to their offices and devoured all the information available, and then lost first their heads and then their patients, as is told so lucidly by Marion Simms of his first case, the fear must now be that from close association and contact with serious cases and major operations, not only the respect for the minor is lost but haste and excessive confidence in administering to the major is fostered.

Looked at in the light of progressive mental training, to achieve the best results with a minimum of energy-loss, it becomes a question not only whether the lower classmen should be allowed to attend clinics, but what grade of clinic it is safe for the higher classmen to begin with; this, if there is to be built up a chain of memories and associated ideas which will serve as a foundation for a life study.

NEW BOOKS.*

The following list of new books comprises the important books issued since last number of the INTERCOLLEGIATE MEDICAL JOURNAL:

- BRASS, ARNOLD (Göttingen).—Atlas of Human Histology. 60 full-page colored plates. W. Wood & Co.
- CURRIER, ANDREW.—The Menopause. 12mo. D. Appleton & Co.
- DUCKWORTH, DYCE.—The Sequel of Diseases. 12mo. Longmans, Green & Co.
- FENWICK, W. S.—Disorders of Digestion in Infancy and Childhood. 8vo. J. B. Lippincott Co.
- HARE, H. A.—System of Practical Therapeutics. Vol. 4. 8vo. Lea Bros. & Co.
- JONES-MACNAUGHTON.—Diseases of Women. 12mo. W. Wood & Co.
- KELLOGG, T. H.—Text-book of Mental Diseases 8vo. W. Wood & Co.
- LIPPINCOTT'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY. 8vo. J. B. Lippincott Co.
- MUIR R. & RITCHIE J.—Manual of Bacteriology. 12mo. Macmillan Co.
- SOLLY, S. E.—Hand-book of Medical Climatology. 8vo. Lea Bros. Co.
- WARING, H. J.—Diseases of the Liver, Gallomit Bladder and Biliary System. 8vo. Macmillan Co.
- ROSS, T. W. FORBES.—Intestinal Intoxication in Infants.
- BOUCHARD.—Traite de Pathologie Generale. Vol. 4.

*Kindness of The W. T. Keener Co.

INTERCOLLEGIATE.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

Retaining the announcements of next year till our next letter, we give in part the baccalaureate address of President Angell, his subject being "Ambitions and Ideas."

"I think you will all agree that each of you should continue to enlarge as far as possible your equipment for your work. So much you owe to yourselves and to your profession. Your great opportunity for this is in your early years, when your offices are not unduly disturbed by a throng of patients or patrons. There is no faculty more to be coveted than the faculty of continuous growth. It is not so much the scope of present attainments as this power of continuous growth that measures the promise of the success of any of you in the long race of life. They alone grow and persist in growing who are ever pushing on toward some high ideal.

It should be the ideal of every one to build his manhood on so large a scale that it should overlap and stretch away beyond his profession. The man should be more and greater than the lawyer, the physician, the engineer, the teacher, the preacher, the merchant, the farmer. It is to be deplored when one's profession crushes and limits the largest development of one's manhood. But unless we keep ever before us the fixed purpose to give our powers large play on all sides by diversifying our studies, we are all in danger in our busy lives of being imprisoned by the routine of our daily tasks, and fettered by the gyves of our profession. The normal growth of our manhood in its best proportions is thus checked. Atrophy, partial or complete, of the faculties we do not use ensues.

It is the duty of every one of you to remember that your first and highest call is to be a well-rounded man rather than the mere practitioner of any profession. The more stunted your manhood, the slenderer will be your power in the long run in any calling. And it will not do to postpone the realization of this ideal of manhood until you have by a meaner policy gratified

a lower ambition. A man who has dwarfed his powers by years of compression and stagnation cannot suddenly by volition make himself an intellectual or moral giant.

The graduate should cherish a worthy ideal of his social and civic relations and duties. A profession is a dignified and honorable calling, by which one not only gains a livelihood, but also renders some valuable service to his fellow-man. A physician is not merely a writer of prescriptions in expectation of fees, but is a messenger of mercy to the victims of bodily ailments, even of the pauper, and a guardian to the public health. The true scholar is not simply an accumulator of knowledge to be retailed to others at an advanced price, but a seeker after truth and wisdom, with which he may bless mankind. * * * * * While occasional excursions into the field of public service may not only be expedient, but may even be regarded in some cases as a duty, it should be remembered that they cost one heavily in interruptions of professional work and study, and that one should not suffer himself to be drawn into them by unworthy motives.

You will soon, in your contact with the world, find yourselves under strong temptations to fall below those high standards which you are now setting before you. Doubtless you will meet men who will call your lofty purposes and aims visionary and unpractical. You will be called to compete with men who have few scruples about the means to accomplish their ends. You will be advised, and perhaps tempted, to fight fire with fire. You will be told that ideals are for dreamers, but ambitions are for men of sense. When you are surrounded and pressed on all sides by men with these low ambitions, live up to the high level of your noblest motives and purposes."

"Alpha.

DETROIT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

The twenty-eighth annual commencement of the college was held in the Auditorium, May 4, 1897. The graduating class numbered eighty-one. After the exercises they were tendered a banquet by the faculty at the Hotel Cadillac. This was a welcome to the graduates into the medical profession, and the class of '97 was made to feel, though no longer a student body, that as individual members they must continue to be students of

medicine, and all must put their shoulders to the wheel of progress. Work upon the college buildings, which were destroyed by fire in the winter, is progressing rapidly. There is no doubt that they will be completed and everything in readiness for the opening of the college term next fall.

The chapter loses ten members by graduation who have scattered like seeds before the wind. W. H. Van Slyke is interne at St. Mary's Hospital, and W. G. Hutchinson at Harper Hospital. A. M. Switzer has located in Grand Rapids, Mich.; J. J. Brady in Owosso, Mich.; F. A. Hope in Memphis, Mich.; I. L. Spaulding in Roland, Mich.; W. J. Kay in Attica, Mich. J. W. Rothacker remains in the city, while J. G. McAlpine and A. F. Crane are at their homes, undecided as to location. Several active members are in the city attending clinics and working in the laboratories which makes it possible to keep the fraternity house open during the summer.

The chapter will convene in the fall seventeen strong, and with two pledged men holding over, we will be in excellent shape and fear little from our rival. The fact that we now have a rival has led to some discussion in regard to freshmen next fall. All seem to agree that it would be most unwise to snap up men early in the term, before we are certain that they have the necessary qualifications. If we could hear from our alumni of desirable men who are entering college, we would be greatly aided in our selections, and we feel sure those who know of Nu Sigma Nu and her high standing will gladly wait for a bid from us.

Beta.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

A number of changes in the primary branches are to be noted. Among others, our course in histology and embryology has been arranged to cover two years instead of one as formerly. This course now includes in the first year the study of general morphology and the elements of histology and embryology, and in the second year the comparative study of the minute structures, origin, and development of the various organs of the alimentary, respiratory, and uro-genital systems, the central and sympathetic nervous systems, the organs of special sense, etc.

A large number of graduate courses have been arranged for. These will be each of six weeks' duration. It is the intention of

the faculty to make them as practical as possible and to emphasize their laboratory and clinical features. We are also glad to note an increased tendency on the part of the faculty to raise the standard of admission to the medical college. In 1899 the requirements will include plane geometry and three books of Cæsar in addition to those of 1898, and in 1900 the requirements will be the same as those for admission to the Freshman class of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts.

The academic course has been so arranged as to offer in the line of elections such subjects as chemistry, histology, physiology and anatomy, thus making it possible for a student to take, during his academic training, a part of his professional work. This means a saving in time, which is of great importance to a man of limited means. Graduate courses have also been offered for the degrees of Ph.D. and M.S., in which advanced work in bacteriology, histology, pathology, and anatomy is permitted, thus enabling one especially interested along these lines to do special work, and at the same time secure a post-graduate degree. This means a great advancement over old methods, and an important addition to our opportunities for medical research.

Minnesota graduated from her medical department about sixty men who have been well trained in our laboratories, and certainly will reflect credit on their Alma Mater.

The college year has been a most successful one. The death of Dean Perry H. Millard, professor of the principles and practice of surgery and medical jurisprudence, was a great loss to our school, as his executive ability was marked and his acquaintance with modern methods in medical work large.

At a recent meeting of the regents, Dr. Parks Ritchie of St. Paul, professor of obstetrics, was elected to succeed him. Dr. Ritchie has already entered upon his duties, and the work of arranging the curriculum for next year is now well under way.

Honors in the Northwest have not fallen singly on *Nu Sigma Nu*, and we take great pleasure in announcing to our sister chapters that Dr. John F. Fulton of St. Paul, professor of ophthalmology, otology, and hygiene, at the recent meeting of the State Medical Association, at Mankato, Minn., was elected president of the association for the ensuing year.

Four men in the class of 1897 received the degree of doctor of medicine *cum laude*, and of these Dr. James S. Gilfillan and Dr. H. W. Smith represent *Epsilon*. Most of the seniors in the chapter secured hospital appointments, and after a short rest from the vicissitudes of finals and the State Board are now starting on their summer's work. Cards nicely engraved with the owner's name and the all-desired M.D. are much in evidence, and exchanges of courtesies along this line with admiring friends are of common occurrence.

Epsilon.

CHICAGO MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The college year of '96 and '97 is now a thing of the past.

The finals passed off with the necessary number of "flunks," and the hospital internes have for the most part entered upon their duties in their respective hospitals, while the under classmen are widely scattered.

College affairs are very quiet at present. The regular clinics are running, as they do through the year, with a very good attendance in all, children's, skin, and medicine being particularly well attended.

The special courses given in bacteriology by Dr. Rawlings, pathology by Dr. Walls, and hæmatology by Dr. Jacques, are well attended, both by the regular students as well as by some of our alumni. Professor Edwards's medical clinic at Cook County Hospital seems to be as popular as it was during the past year, notwithstanding the hot weather.

The requirements for admission have been raised, but from the number of applications for admission already made, the Freshman class of next year will be as large as in previous years.

There have been no radical changes made in the faculty.

Dr. De Lee has been chosen professor of obstetrics.

Dr. Plummer, who is to be associate professor of surgery, aiding Professor Morgan in operative surgery, is now giving a course in operative surgery on dogs to a very enthusiastic class of aspiring surgeons.

Dr. Halstead will be assistant professor in surgery.

Dr. Ludlow, formerly of St. Luke's Hospital, has located in the city.

Professor Billings is spending the summer in Europe.

Dr. Black, instructor in medicine, has, on account of ill health, gone to California to locate.

Zeta.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

The fifteenth annual commencement of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, was held April 20, 1897.

The doctorate address was given by Prof. W. A. Evans, of the chair of pathology.

The degree of doctor of medicine was given by the University of Illinois, this being the first time the university has had this privilege.

The college still retains its custom of a spring course, attendance upon which is optional. This last two and one half months, during which time about one third of the work of the winter session is gone over, and credits are given on the work done. The fees of this course are deducted from the fees of the succeeding winter course.

The prospects of a very successful coming year are already apparent, details of which will appear in our next letter.

The graduates of 1897 are located as follows: Dr. Chas. W. Carter, Aledo, Ill.; Dr. W. S. Lincoln, Dodgeville, Wis.; Dr. G. E. Mayhew, Red Bluff, Cal.; Dr. J. F. Auner, Shell Rock, Iowa; Dr. F. W. Broderick, Eye and Ear Infirmary, Chicago; Dr. Walter Williams, Merhart, Montana.

Early in the session it was decided by the chapter, at President Carter's earnest wish, to institute bi-weekly meetings at the chapter-house. It has been the custom, at these gatherings, to have some member of the faculty address the chapter. This has been followed by a general discussion. These meetings have been a great success, and they have infused new life, spirit, and interest in the fraternity and its work.

And now Eta wishes you a happy vacation season.

'Hta.

UNIVERSITY OF COLUMBIA.

Columbia University held its one hundred and forty-third annual commencement in Carnegie Hall last night in the presence of the trustees, faculty, and students of the university, friends of learning prominent in educational circles, and several thousand invited guests. Simple and impressive exercises were observed. Apart from the formalities incidental to conferring the degrees and an agreeable programme of music by a full

orchestra, the greater part of the evening was devoted to a speech of instruction and encouragement to the graduates by President Seth Low.

There was no regular class of the College of Physicians and Surgeons graduated, owing to the new curriculum introduced three years ago. Diplomas, however, were given to forty doctors. At the next commencement the graduating class, the first to enter under the four years' course, will probably be larger than ever before.

Dr. John G. Curtis, the acting dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, administered the Hippocratic oath to the doctors before the degree was conferred. By this oath the doctors promise to faithfully obey the obligations and duties of their profession.

'Iwra.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The one hundred and thirty-second annual session is over and past, and material in a letter is rather scarce.

Pennsylvania begins her next session with largely increased facilities and more students than ever. Although this is the one hundred and thirty-third session, the old college shows no evil effects of so great an age, but only the benefits accruing from it. There have been few changes in the faculty. Dr. Marshall has been elected to the chair of chemistry, succeeding the late Professor Wormley, and there have been a few minor changes.

Lambda had eight graduates, and nearly all of them obtained hospitals.

The annual convention was held here in Philadelphia, and we had an opportunity to meet the members from other chapters and become acquainted with the workings of the general fraternity. We regret that we were not able to entertain in a more suitable manner, but we can say to the brothers that in the future we hope to meet you all here again, and in our *Nu Sigma Nu* house, where we can have a little more social gayety than at a hotel, and where an opportunity will be afforded for certain brothers to become better acquainted with the fair Mackeresser, of whom our Western brothers inquired so much. Lambda feels greatly honored for a new chapter to have one of her number on the

staff of grand officers, and Dr. Chaffee will probably be tendered a congratulatory banquet when the boys get together in the fall.

It was a matter of regret that the convention was not held earlier in the year. Many of our members had left for their vacation, and, as a chapter, we did not receive as much benefit as we should have done, but we are all heartily pleased with everything we saw and heard, and more determined than ever to work for the success of Lambda chapter and Nu Sigma Nu.

We close now for the summer vacation, and expect to come back and take up the work in the fall with renewed energy.

Λάμβδα.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

A year ago this month Nu Chapter, Nu Sigma Nu, was established here, the pioneer chapter of the West. The charter members numbered fourteen. The members now number twenty-four, seven of whom are of the faculty of the college, including the dean. The year has been a prosperous one, yet we look forward to and hope to do far better this coming season. During the past year we have had several enjoyable affairs, notably the evening of the installation of the faculty members, followed by a banquet at Illich's. Dr. H. Bert Ellis was toastmaster and officiated in a very happy manner. Toasts were responded to by the dean and all the members of the faculty. Following this we had several smaller though smart affairs. As yet we have no chapter-house, but look forward to it as one of the things of the future.

During Dr. J. B. Murphy's visit to our city he favored us with a talk on appendicitis. At the close of his lecture he graciously made a few remarks to the members of the fraternity who wore the frat. colors in his honor.

Commencement exercises are over. The exercises were held at the Los Angeles Theatre before the largest audience ever assembled at a similar function here. The exercises were of more than usual interest. Of the thirteen members of the graduating class, six were members of Nu Sigma Nu. The prize offered by Prof. M. L. Moore was won by John C. Ferbert. This prize, last year, was won by Charles Lee Caven, both members of the chapter. Nu Sigma Nu is just completing its first year, yet at the last two commencements all honors were carried

off by members of Nu Sigma Nu. Of the three hospital appointments at the County Hospital two were captured by Nu Sigma Nu men,—Robert Verner Day and Edward J. Cooke. Raymond Taylor, '96, was appointed resident physician at the County Hospital. With only one exception in all the exams. Nu Sigma Nu students headed the list this year.

The future for Nu Sigma Nu looks bright. With five of our faculty who come in direct contact with the Freshman class, it should not be difficult to select the best men for next year.

Dr. H. Bert Ellis has just returned from the East, where he attended the American Medical Association and also represented Nu Chapter at the biennial convention of the fraternity. The doctor, as usual, was down for a toast at the banquet.

The chapter extends its best wishes to all sister chapters, and welcomes all brothers, who (broken down in health, or unable to withstand the severe Eastern winters) join us in this semi-tropic climate, where flowers bloom all the year, where geraniums grow to trees, where roses run riot, and where within two hours you can take a plunge in the grand Pacific, or stand on Echo Mountain and throw snowballs at the poppies in the valley. Truly, brothers, if you don't care to come here to study with us, come and give us a visit. You will find us good company, and we will take delight in showing you the orange groves and wonders of Southern California. We here in Southern California feel honored to be worthy of a Nu Sigma Nu chapter. We feel doubly honored to think we are the only chapter west of the Mississippi, but hope in the near future to see one at 'Frisco.

Our work here is up to the standard of the best Eastern schools, as our graduates will show. Our faculty are all men who in their special line of work are at the head of the profession.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Robert Verner Day; Vice-President, John M. Dunsmore; Secretary, Melvin L. Loomis; Treasurer, Frank B. Steele; Historian, Frank S. Dillingham.

Nb.

GENERAL FRATERNITY INTEREST.

WRITINGS CURRENT.

BIOGRAPHICAL OF THE FRATERNITY.

Prof. George Dock.—Cancer of the Stomach in Early Life.

In the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* Prof. George Dock, *Alpha*, gives a clinical history of a case of cancer of the stomach in a man of twenty, and discusses "the value of cells in effusions in the diagnosis of cancer of the serous membranes." In the discussion of the case the two features of special importance were the youth of the patient and the physical and microscopic characteristics of the fluid in the peritoneum and pleuræ.

The frequency of cancer under forty or even thirty is more generally admitted than formerly. "One fact of importance that seems to be demonstrated by recent observations is that cancer of the stomach in early life often has a slow growth.
* * * The matter of slow course is important because of the growing and proper tendency to look on cancer of the stomach as a surgical disease. It would be permissible to make a bolder attempt at complete extirpation of all diseased parts in a young person than in the usual subjects of gastric cancer."


The transudate in the case reported presented a "milky appearance, due to fatty degenerated cells and free fat-globules from those cells. As this can occur in conditions so different as tuberculosis and cancer, it evidently has only limited diagnostic value."

With the aid of the centrifuge, the cells of the transudates of pleuræ and peritoneum were fixed and stained. "The best results were obtained by the use of dilute hematoxylin solutions, especially after hardening in picric acid."

After describing the appearance of the different cells and results of similar examinations in benign cases, the writer says: "For the last fifty years the belief in a characteristic cancer-cell has slowly changed as objective criticism stripped away each attribute thought to be peculiar. At present there is little left but the unfulfilled hope that a cell-parasite may be found, by

the recognition of which we may distinguish cancer-cells from others. * * * It seems, then, from the few cases examined, there are more cells showing mitosis in cancerous effusions than in those of simple or tuberculous inflammation. There may also be more atypical mitoses in the former case. The examination of the last case mentioned shows that the differences are quantitative and not qualitative. This is what we should expect from the knowledge we have of karyokinesis, normal and pathological, in tissues. From the results obtained by Rieder and myself, it should often be possible to make a diagnosis, especially between cancer and tuberculosis of a serous membrane, by an examination of the cells in effusions. The results in the last case show that all other differences are less reliable than this one. I do not speak of inoculations. Aside from risk of failure, the element of time may be important."

Prof. A. D. Bevan (Kappa).—A New Incision for the Surgery of the Bile Tracts.

"With the objects of determining the best method of exposing the bile tracts for exploration and operative procedures, and for determinating the position and relation of the bile tracts to other structures so that operations could be conducted with a minimum of danger to important structures, I undertook a series of twenty dissections. In this brief report I desire to present not the entire results, but one of the results of my investigations, namely, the abdominal incision which is best adapted for bile tract surgery. * * * The incisions generally employed are, first, the vertical incision along the outer border or through the substance of the rectus; second, the transverse or liver border incision of the Germans; third, the  shaped incision made up of an incision along the outer border of the rectus and one joining it at right angles; and fourth, the incision in the upper half of the linea alba for common duct work.

"My incision should be divided into a primary portion and the extended parts of the incision. The primary part, which can be employed for exploration or simple cholecystotomy, is an italic letter f-shaped incision along or through the outer border of the rectus muscle. This may be made from three to four inches in length. The extended parts of the incision are added to this when required. These extended portions can be made from an inch to three inches in length, as the thickness of the

abdominal wall and the character of the operation demand. When complete, the incision furnishes much freer access to the gall bladder and bile ducts than can be obtained by any other form of incision. The edges of the incision are readily held apart without tension, and the entire bile tract is freely exposed for examination and operative procedures.

"I believe that the incision which I here present is based upon good anatomic and surgical grounds, and that its adoption will be a step in advance in the surgery of the bile tracts. It makes better work possible by giving freer access to the field of operation; it will enable the surgeon to work more rapidly, and in some of the prolonged operations on the bile ducts this is a vital point. It will reduce to a minimum the dangers of hernia after operations. It can be employed in all cases, in exploration, limited or expansive operations."—*Journal of the American Medical Association.*

Nicholas Senn, M.D.—President's Address.

Professor Senn, *Kappa*, chose as his subject "The American Medical Association: Its Past, Present, and Future." He reviewed the changes that have occurred in medicine and surgery since the forming of the association, and the work it has and is accomplishing. In predicting the future, and suggesting lines of action for the association to follow, he spoke of medical education as follows:

"The influence of the association has been markedly felt in improving the standard of medical education. Nearly all our medical schools, large and small, now require four years' attendance of eight months each upon a systematic graded course, and, with few exceptions, furnish adequate laboratory and clinical facilities. There is no longer excuse for our medical students to seek foreign universities to obtain a thorough medical education. It requires no stretch of the imagination to predict with certainty that our country will become the center of medical education within twenty-five years, and our medical institutions will be sought by foreign students, as they will in the course of that time furnish facilities for teaching far in advance of those of any other country. Our medical schools are undergoing a rapid evolution by acquiring unlimited financial resources and by the development of model, practical, clinical teachers.

"The polyclinics and post-graduate medical schools, which have recently appeared upon the field of medical instruction and which had their origin in this country, have done good work in furthering the objects and directing the ambitions of the progressive practitioners, old and young. They never have, and they never will, take the place of medical societies as post-graduate institutions for the enlightenment and advancement of the great mass of practitioners. Medical societies, large and small, are the legitimate and the proper post-graduate medical schools."

Prof. Robert H. Babcock.—Report of a Case of Pulmonary Stenosis.

In *Medicine* for May, 1897, Professor Babcock, *Eta*, reports a case of pulmonary stenosis. Since 1871 only seven cases have been reported, all but one of which were congenital. "This form of this disease results either from intra-uterine inflammation of the myocardium or endocardium, or from abnormalities in the development of the organ. Most commonly the obstruction is due to a fusing together of the valves, which then form either a diaphragm stretched across the opening, or a cone-like projection into the artery with a minute like opening at the apex." This latter was the condition in the case reported. "The foramen ovale is usually found open, and the interventricular septum is sometimes incomplete. The pulmonary artery in congenital cases is *always* narrowed, and there may be atresia of this vessel. The ductus arteriosus is generally open, but may be closed. In more rare cases the pulmonary stenosis is caused by a constriction of the right conus arteriosus, in which event this may appear like a third ventricle, and both the interventricular and interauricular septa are defective; the pulmonary artery is narrowed or even occluded, and the ductus Botalli remains pervious."

The pathological findings in the case were peculiar, as "the pulmonary artery was dilated, the interventricular septum was intact, and the foramen ovale was not more patent than it is in a considerable proportion of hearts without a suspicion of congenital disease." "It is interesting to reflect that although the lesion, according to the patient's history, gave rise to no subjective symptoms, it should yet have led ultimately to pulmonary tuberculosis."

Prof. Henry T. Byford.—The Present Status of Vaginal Section.

Dr. Byford, *Eta*, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for April 24th discusses the present status of vaginal section with a record of personal experience.

"Much of the improvement in gynecology within the last few years has consisted in the development of vaginal section." The history of the operation is then reviewed. "The old dictum that vaginal section is inferior in value to abdominal section for pelvic disease because the pelvic cavity is not accessible; is only true for conditions located at the pelvic brim. To the parts below the pelvic brim vaginal section gives as good and often better access, and without disturbing the abdominal viscera. Its only disadvantage in treating conditions within the pelvic cavity is the danger of hemorrhage. But even this, the greatest danger, is no greater, in my experience, than in an abdominal section.

"If septic infection takes place, the resulting inflammation is always localized, or unless vaginal section be done for abdominal rather than pelvic conditions.

"In illustration of the possibilities and limitations of the method and the possibility of seeing and knowing what one is doing, I will briefly state what procedures have so far been demonstrated to be practicable.

"In fact a mortality of 3.05 per cent in the first 162 cases (and which, including all, includes, of course, those upon which my experience was gained) is better than I could expect to do in a first series of 162 abdominal sections, and the series included more septic and complicated cases than is the rule in an equally extended series of abdominal sections."

Dr. R. C. Matheny.—State Medicine.

Dr. Matheny, *Zeta*, read a paper at the Illinois State Medical Society last month on the "Duty of the Medical Practitioner to the State in Detection of Crime and Punishment of Criminals." The crime was abortion, and the conclusions drawn were that morality alone and not the state directly could reach the woman.

OF INTEREST.

Prof. N. Senn and Dr. W. N. Senn, of Kappa, sailed last week for Moscow via the Mediterranean.

Prof. H. O. Walker, *Beta*, was recently elected senior Vice-President of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Prof. John Edwin Rhodes, A.M., *Kappa*, was made a fellow of the American Laryngological Association at its meeting in Washington last month.

Prof. Bayard Holmes, *Eta*, was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Association of American Medical Colleges at its last meeting in Philadelphia, May 31, 1897.

In the University of Michigan the course in electro-therapeutics under Professor Herdman, where the students are required to make their own apparatus, is known among the boys as the course in plumbing; the assistants are called Herdman's tinkers.

Among those elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Medicine, at its recent meeting in Philadelphia, are noted: Cal., H. Bert Ellis, *Nu*, Los Angeles; Ill., J. M. Dodson, *Kappa*, T. M. Hardie, *Eta*, H. P. Newman, *Eta*, W. C. Van Benschoten, *Zeta*, Chicago; Mich., C. T. McClintock, *Alpha*, B. R. Shurley, *Beta*, Detroit, C. B. Nancrede, *Alpha*, Ann Arbor, C. C. Worden, *Alpha*, Ishpeming.

Among the newly elected officers of the American Medical Association, Drs. H. P. Newman, *Eta*, and Geo. W. Webster, *Zeta*, were re-elected treasurer and librarian respectively, and Dr. J. B. Murphy, *Eta*, was appointed to give the annual oration in surgery, while Drs. J. B. Murphy, *Eta*, and J. G. Hyndman, *Theta*, were appointed among the delegates to the International Medical Congress at Moscow.

Dr. William G. Stearns, *Zeta*, superintendent of Eastern Illinois Hospital for Insane, was married June 24, 1897, to Miss Grace Whitney, of Kankakee, Ill.

The Syllabus of Northwestern University refused to allow the "city departments" to participate, and so the medical department issued their own edition of "joaks and grinds." The *Zeta* boys are spoken of as "a well behaved, nice, dignified set of youths, all tending to follow scientific principles, that is, accommodation to environment and association."

THE CONVENTION.

The ninth regular convention of the Grand Council of Nu Sigma Nu fraternity was held at Philadelphia, the place of meeting having been changed out of regard to the wishes of the New York Chapter who were to have entertained. The time of meeting was especially advantageous because it made it possible for the delegates to attend the American Medical Association sections and to profit also by the city's hospitality offered for the occasion of that meeting.

It is a question whether, indeed, it would not be wise for the fraternity to follow up this plan and meet at the time and place of the American Medical Association, or perhaps better because the college faculty men predominate in it, and because the sections of the American Medical Association are so much entertained as to interfere somewhat, with the American Congress of Physicians and Surgeons. The meeting with chapters or under their auspices would be advantageous—and, of course, pleasant and to be desired—except for the fact that if held during college term the active men of the entertaining chapter have a work added to their already excessive labors, and the active delegates of other chapters are not able without loss to leave their studies to attend; if held after the close of session, few men of the entertaining chapter are left to entertain.

We take it the highest function of this society is the development of the social side of medicine and the improvement of its moral, in which event the delegates should meet with those from whom may be gathered inspiration and stimulus to these higher aims.

Secondly, our meetings should partake more of the nature of social gatherings to unite teacher and pupil, to cement faculty to faculty and serve to thus increase the influence of an ever widening fraternal feeling. To this end our biennial banquet should be indeed a feast of reason and a flow of soul. Let ours be the development of a Holmes and a Mitchells. There should be a convention address, a song, and a poem. It would seem that this was the trend of the proceedings of the council at the meeting when the work for the coming two years was practically given over to a so-named supreme council (the officers of the fraternity) and the vice-president made chairman of a standing committee on constitution revision, to whom should be sent all recommendations for alteration in the constitution, and the custodian chairman of a like committee on ritual revision. If these committees are furnished with these suggestions and formulate them into resolutions whenever of sufficient import, the council, through the constituted mail vote, will be continually doing business and nothing will come before these regular meetings except those things demanding congressional discussion and the election of officers and outlining a policy for the ensuing biennial period. These should consume so little time that the business of the convention, while important of course, will no longer be primary. Our council needs to be inspired with zeal through the influence of association and to be kept in touch with our men of highest ideals.

The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock in the morning of June 4th. The following chapters were represented by their respective delegates: *Alpha*, Will Walter; *Beta*, Thaddeus H. Walker; *Delta*, S. S. Hill; *Epsilon*, H. P. Ritchie; *A.* W. Shaw; *Zeta*, P. F. Rogers, W. B. Fisk, S. M. White; *Eta*, Bayard Holmes; *Theta*, Lawrence Shields, H. K. Durham; *Iota*, H. A. MacGruer, L. C. Berry; *Kappa*, J. C. Crowder; *Lambda*, J. Stewart Chaffee; *Nu*, H. Bert Ellis. *Mu* alone was unrepresented. All of the council officers were present. The reports of officers having been read and accepted, the meeting proceeded to consideration of the constitution and its amendments, which was the principal business of the convention, since the consideration of these amendments covered practically the work and future policy of the fraternity. The constitution as amended will be forwarded by the secretary in due time to chapters for

their government; the details of the passage of amendments is scarcely interesting though on record for reference if necessary. Suffice to mention here a few of the important changes.

The fraternity desired to select from its faculty members some one of eminence in the profession to whom it could look for advice and council and by whom it might be honored. The convention therefore created an office of honorary president and unanimously elected to this office Prof. Victor C. Vaughan, of Ann Arbor.

As above stated, the officers of the fraternity are created a supreme body to carry out the policy of the fraternity as outlined in convention; they are to be the business body of the fraternity.

Another amendment provides that "no candidate for membership who has previously attended a medical college where a chapter of the *Nu Sigma Nu* is located can be initiated into a chapter in another school without the consent of the chapter in the college where the applicant previously attended."

An important change is in defining clearly the membership of the grand council. As now amended the constitution provides that each chapter have three votes; that in session these may be cast by the three delegates, or one if he is so empowered; that between sessions the chapter president, unless some one else is chosen, represents the chapter in the grand council and casts the three votes. The expenses of but one delegate to meetings will, however, be paid. This will reduce decidedly the cost of a grand council session and still will not prevent the presence of a full delegation if the chapter desires to pay their expenses. The council and the chapter each pay one half of the delegates' expenses, as heretofore.

The per capita tax is made \$2, in lieu of \$2.50, as recently voted upon. The council become subscribers to *THE JOURNAL* to the number of at least twenty-five for each chapter. Each active member receives *THE JOURNAL* without charge.

JOURNALS will thus be sent to the chapters, beginning with the September number, to the number of twenty-five each. These will be addressed to active members up to the number of names, beyond which they will be addressed "Initiate No. 1," "Initiate No. 2," etc., etc., and they are to be held for the respective initiates during the year and become their property

upon initiation. Each new member becomes at once familiar with the work of the year, and will thus have added interest.

Delegates and chapters, to have their mail votes counted, must hereafter respond within two weeks from date of request from grand council.

The convention then outlined the schools where chapters may be established by the supreme body without special vote. Chapters will be advised of these.

Charter was ordered to *XI* chapter.

The publication of a song-book and biographical catalogue was left with the supreme body.

The words *Nu Sigma Nu* and the fraternity badge are ordered copyrighted.

The secretary is made chairman of a committee to rewrite the constitution and put it in reduced, concise form.

Special attention is called to the above-mentioned motion as to committees on constitutional and ritual revision. Suggestions on these two matters should be freely sent to the respective chairmen, Vice-President Jas. F. Hazbrouck, 729 Sixth Avenue, New York, for the constitution, and J. Stewart Chaffee, Armenia, New York, for the ritual.

It was decided not to re-incorporate the fraternity.

The report of the auditing committee was accepted and the committee discharged.

Invitations from *Theta* to meet next at Cincinnati and *Kappa* to meet in Chicago, were placed on file.

Thanks were freely expressed to *Lambda* for her hospitality, and to the retiring officers in term for their excellent work.

Dr. Irwin thanked the meeting for the gratitude shown, and Dr. Lyster graciously showed his appreciation of the meeting's action.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing two years:

Hon. President, Victor C. Vaughan, Ann Arbor; President, James Trent Christison, St. Paul; Vice-President, James Foster Hazbrouck, New York; Secretary, Will Walter, Chicago; Treasurer, Lawrence Shields, Cincinnati; Historian, F. Gurney Stubbs, Chicago; Custodian, J. Stewart Chaffee, Armenia, New York.

President Christison responded to the call in an earnest speech, and, on motion, the convention adjourned.

The convention banquet was held on Friday evening in the banquet-room of the Colonnade Hotel. Prof. Bayard Holmes held the gavel, and few if any escaped his command; his automatic-five-minute-speech-bell was an innovation and a decided advantage.

Altogether the convention was a success and augurs well for the fellowship of *Nu Sigma Nu*. Its importance will be more appreciated in late years as we see the good effects of the conservative extension policy determined upon, and the evolution of a social fraternal gathering to which, as before, stated the convention is—perhaps unconsciously—tending.

It is to be regretted that in the hurry the amendment committee omitted to suggest resolutions offering prizes for theses read before chapters or published in *THE JOURNAL*, as was their intent. However it is not now too late for the supreme body to present something of the sort to stimulate such work.

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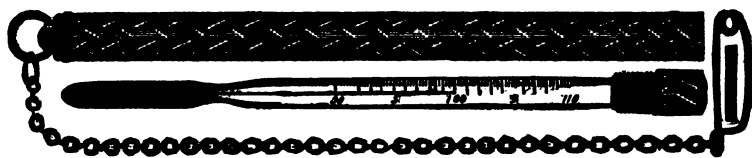
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